

60, Avenue de la Bourdonnais,

Paris 7e.

April 7, 1971.

Dr. Marshall Nirenberg,
National Institutes of Health,
Bethesda,
Maryland.

Dear Marshall,

Just back to Paris and glued to the typewriter and tape recorder. I am glad to report that on second listening our conversation proved as helpful and informative as it seemed the first time through. One thing has me a little confused, however: I am not sure that I completely understand when you were talking about which of the assay techniques, and exactly when you found the assay, and how it made the difference for your final results with poly-U. The misunderstanding is my own fault, because I came to our conversation thinking primarily about the narrow question of poly-U and the code, so that it was not until our telephone conversation the day after we met that I fully saw the significance of what you had been saying about the assay. Could you straighten me out, do you think? How did you actually come to discover the assay technique, and how exactly did it function? Have you perhaps got a reprint of your paper on the assay? (And have you had a moment to have your secretary xerox for me the relevant pages from your Journal?)

Matt Meselson gave me a little more about that Moscow conference. I think he was touched to hear that his congratulations to you, after your second reading of the paper, had meant so much. As he recalls it, he was the one who urged Francis Crick to have you give that second reading; do you remember anything more about how that actually came about?

Thank you again for all your help. It was very pleasant talking with you.

Yours sincerely,

Horace
Horace Judson